

September 11, 1987

Excellent!

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director

FROM : D/PS - Louise Wheeler *LW*SUBJECT : President Reagan's Videotape for Variety
Lifeline Dinner in New York on September 22

Today, the President is videotaping a message which will be shown at the Variety Clubs Lifeline dinner in New York on September 22.

The original request from us to the White House was made with the understanding that the President make an appeal for assistance to wounded Afghan children. I prepared a draft for the White House speechwriters which they used as a guide for the President's remarks.

At your suggestion, I asked Joe Sinay and Salah Hassanein if a percentage of the proceeds of the dinner could be donated for the Afghan children's relief and they agreed to ten percent.

~~They had hoped Mrs. Reagan would do the videotape with the President but the White House has informed us that she could not participate. Sinay and Hassanein will be disappointed about this because the First Lady is the National Chairperson for the Lifeline Program.~~

Another important factor in all this was an NSC request to have an Afghan child (or children) present at the dinner. I arranged for John Dixon to meet with John Burlinson, Director of Variety Children's Lifeline and Gretchen Bolton, Chief of Mission of the Intergovernmental Committee for Migration, to arrange for this and also to determine if Lifeline could include Afghan children in its program. (It can and will).

Mrs. Burlinson invited an Afghan youngster and an escort to attend the Variety dinner. Variety will cover the costs.

You have approved Worldnet coverage of the dinner and interviews with Sinay, Hassanein, Leo Jaffe and perhaps the Afghan child.

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DRAFT LETTER FOR PRESIDENT

Dear Mr. President:

You have expressed your concern for the plight of the wounded children of Afghanistan on many occasions. I particularly remember one such time at an NSC meeting in March.

I am aware of an event which will take place in New York at the Waldor Astoria on September 22, 1987 which will provide financial assistance to the Afghan children. The event is the annual Variety Children's Lifeline Award dinner which will, this year, honor Robert Goizueta, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Coca Cola Company. The only other person to receive this award was Mrs. Reagan in 1984.

Joe Sinay, President of Variety Clubs International, has told me he would be willing to ask the Variety Clubs' Board to donate a major portion of the proceeds from these event to the Afghan Children's Relief Fund. In return for this, he had originally asked for Mrs. Reagan to attend the banquet. I know that this is not possible because the Congressional Barbecue has been scheduled for that evening. I am suggesting, Mr. President, that you may wish to make a videotape message for those who will be attending the September 22 banquet congratulating Variety Clubs for its great humanitarian programs and pointing out your concern for the Afghan wounded children. I feel this would be an appropriate forum and an excellent opportunity for you to reach an important audience.

There should be excellent media coverage of this event and I am arranging for WORLDNET to cover it so it can be shown throughout the world. It would be a wonderful opportunity to share the compassion both you and Nancy have for the children of the world and your particular concern for the wounded Afghans.

With warm wishes.

Sincerely,

Charles Z. Wick
Director

The President
The White House

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under submission of final letter

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